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**BOROUGH OF FALMOUTH**



# **ANNUAL REPORTS**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

V. E. WHITMAN, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

AND

**Senior Sanitary Inspector**

R. C. SWEET, M.S.I.A.

For the Year ending  
31st DECEMBER, 1955





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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1955

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The MAYOR OF FALMOUTH (Councillor Surg.-Commander  
J. L. LEAN, R.N. (Retd.), J.P., C.C.)

Chairman : Councillor Miss E. M. FROST, M.A.

Vice-Chairman : Alderman T. C. WILLIAMS

Alderman B. J. E. BELCHER, D.F.C.

Alderman H. B. NATION

Councillors V. A. S. BONE

J. H. CONDY

G. V. DAVEY

P. G. LOBB

M. E. NUNN

D. E. SMITH

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## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Medical Officer of Health :*

V. E. WHITMAN, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector :*

R. C. SWEET, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, The Royal Sanitary Institute.  
Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, The Royal Sanitary  
Institute

*Assistant Sanitary Inspector :*

G. BARNARD

*Clerk :*

Miss L. M. DAWE



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# BOROUGH OF FALMOUTH

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ending December 31st, 1955

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Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the Borough of Falmouth in 1955.

For the second year in succession snow fell in Falmouth during the early part of the year and lay for some time on the ground. The bitter weather experienced at that time affected the older section of the community and sent up the death rate among them. Other than this the year was particularly healthy and there was no epidemic of any kind.

The year saw the end of the small sewage works at Swanvale the effluent from which discharged into the stream feeding Swanvale. The works were overloaded and the effluent was never really satisfactory. It will be years before Swanpool completely recovers from the effects of past pollution but it is a relief to know that conditions there will gradually improve.

A number of other improvements effected during the year are recorded in Mr. Sweet's report which deserves careful study.

I welcome this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year and to Mr. Sweet and his staff for their loyal co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. WHITMAN,

*Medical Officer of Health  
Borough of Falmouth*

## FALMOUTH

### Statistics and Social Conditions 1955

Area in acres	....	....	....	....	1,893
Estimated population 1955	....	....	....	....	16,490 (16,560)
Inhabited houses 1955	....	....	....	....	4,952
Inhabited houses 1931	....	....	....	....	2,916
Rateable value 1955	....	....	....	....	£178,631
Product of penny rate	....	....	....	....	£703 1 3
Houses built or building since 1945	....	....	....	....	759 (692)
Families on waiting list for houses	....	....	....	....	538 (616)
Inhabited houses left from 1935 slum clearance scheme	....	....	....	....	85 (85)
Rainfall 1955	....	....	inches	....	41.3 (48.5)
Rainfall, average of past 80 years	....	....	inches	....	43.9
Sunshine 1955	....	....	Hours	....	1913.7 (1582.5)
Sunshine, average of past 80 years	....	....	Hours	....	1697.8

### Vital Statistics

#### *Live Births*

Males 116 (112)	Females 120 (117)	Total	236	(229)
Registrar General's Area Comparability				
Factor	....	....	....	1.08 (1.04)
Birth rate, per 1,000 population—				
Falmouth	....	....	....	14.9 (14.9)
Birth rate per 1,000 population—				
England and Wales	....	....	....	15.0 (15.2)

#### *Still Births*

Males 5 (9)	Females 2 (1)	Total	7	(10)
Still birth rate per 1,000 all births—				
Falmouth	....	....	....	21.8 (41.8)
Still birth rate per 1,000 all births—				
England and Wales	....	....	....	23.2 (24.0)



*Deaths*

Males 108 (116)	Females 117 (114)	Total	225	(230)
Registrar General's Area Comparability				
Factor—Falmouth	....	....	0.87	(0.87)
Death rate per 1,000 population—				
Falmouth	....	....	Total	11.9 (12.1)
Death rate per 1,000 population—				
England and Wales	....	....	11.7	(11.3)

*Deaths of Infants under 1 year*

Males 1 (5)	Females 1 (2)	....	....	2	(7)
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live					
births, Falmouth	....	....	....	8.5	(30.6)
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live					
births, England and Wales	....	....	....	28.4	(25.5)

*Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks*

Males 1 (4)	Females 1 (2)	....	....	2	(6)
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**Birth and Death Rates since 1936**

<i>Year</i>					<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infant Mortality Rate</i>
1936	....	....	....	....	12.8	14.4	46.2
1937	....	....	....	....	15.3	14.3	52.0
1938	....	....	....	....	12.3	13.6	59.5
1939	....	....	....	....	13.7	14.8	58.5
1940	....	....	....	....	13.1	13.4	49.8
1941	....	....	....	....	16.5	12.6	36.9
1942	....	....	....	....	16.2	13.6	41.7
1943	....	....	....	....	18.6	14.6	56.6
1944	....	....	....	....	20.4	13.9	53.3
1945	....	....	....	....	20.0	14.1	16.5
1946	....	....	....	....	20.4	13.5	33.6
1947	....	....	....	....	18.6	12.7	23.0
1948	....	....	....	....	15.6	12.9	26.4
1949	....	....	....	....	16.4	14.6	46.9
1950	....	....	....	....	14.8	11.1	33.3
1951	....	....	....	....	15.1	10.8	33.2
1952	....	....	....	....	14.4	9.5	26.3
1953	....	....	....	....	15.9	10.6	15.9
1954	....	....	....	....	14.9	12.1	30.6
1955	....	....	....	....	14.9	11.9	8.5

## ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	1953	1954	1955
Tuberculosis, respiratory ....	2	2	3
Tuberculosis, other ....	2	0	0
Syphilitic diseases ....	0	1	1
Diphtheria ....	0	0	0
Whooping cough ....	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections ....	0	1	0
Acute poliomyelitis ....	0	0	0
Measles ....	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ....	6	7	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	7	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast ....	4	4	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ....	1	3	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ....	18	21	26
Leukaemia and aleukaemia ....	2	2	0
Diabetes ....	0	1	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	35	40
Coronary disease, angina ....	27	31	24
Hypertension with heart disease ....	6	10	9
Other heart disease ....	38	42	43
Other circulatory disease ....	8	6	4
Influenza ....	1	1	2
Pneumonia ....	6	2	5
Bronchitis ....	8	12	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	5	5
Ulcer of stomach—Duodenum ....	1	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ....	2	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis ....	8	5	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ....	3	3	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ....	0	0	0
Congenital malformations ....	0	2	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	20	22
Motor vehicle accidents ....	0	1	0
All other accidents ....	3	4	3
Suicide ....	2	0	2
Homicide and operations of war ...	0	0	0
All cases	<u>203</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>225</u>

## Deaths in Age Groups

		M.	F.	Total
0 +	....	1 (5)	1 (2)	2 (7)
1—4	....	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
5—14	....	1 (0)	0 (1)	1 (1)
15—24	....	1 (3)	0 (2)	1 (5)
25—44	....	7 (1)	3 (4)	10 (5)
45—64	....	27 (26)	25 (23)	52 (49)
65—74	....	37 (33)	29 (24)	66 (57)
75 +	....	34 (47)	59 (59)	93 (106)

70.7% of all deaths were of persons over 65 years of age.

41.3% of all deaths were of persons over 75 years of age.

The Infant Mortality Rate for 1954 was high, this year it is remarkably low. Such fluctuations are bound to occur in the Vital Statistics of small communities and too much should not be made of them. Aggregating the figures for the past 5 years we get an infant mortality rate of 22.8 which is very much better than the figures for England and Wales in any year.

Ten deaths in the 25-44 year group seem somewhat excessive. Among them one was an American sailor who contracted an infection on board ship of which he died in Falmouth Hospital. Of the remainder 2 were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2 to chronic non-tubercular lung conditions, one to influenzal pneumonia, one to cancer, one to industrial injury and 2 to non-infectious incurable conditions.

Attention has been drawn in recent years to the increase in deaths from cancer of the lung and from coronary disease compared with pulmonary tuberculosis. Aggregating the deaths from these causes during the past 3 years the ratio of tuberculosis to cancer of the lung and coronary disease in Falmouth was 7 : 19 : 82 whereas in 1955 for the whole country it was 7 : 27 : 85. This bears out the contention that the lung cancer rate in large industrial towns is greater than where the air is practically unpolluted.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE

## 1. Clinics

**Infant Welfare.** Attendances 2479. Sessions 97  
Average per session 25.5

		<i>Expectant and</i>		
		<i>Nursing Mothers</i>	<i>Pre School Children</i>	<i>School Children</i>
Inspected	....	44 (34)	93 (61)	2,740 (1,653)
Requiring treatment		44 (34)	93 (61)	2,203 (1,180)
Treated	....	44 (34)	93 (61)	1,036 (744)
Attendances	....	220 (117)	228 (131)	2,271 (1,850)
Made dentally fit	....	40 (18)	94 (36)	1,102 (733)

With Mr. Patterson's return to health a full year's work was possible at the dental clinic. There is still room for improvement however in the number of mothers and pre school children attending for inspection and treatment.

## 2. Ambulance Service

	1953	1954	1955
Ambulances ....	2	2	2
Utilecons ....	2	2	2
Patients carried—Ambulances ....	2,498	2,393	2,814
Patients carried—Utilecons ....	6,518	7,617	6,917
Patients carried—Hospital Car Service ....	1,009	1,261	1,079
Miles travelled—Ambulances ....	21,781	21,684	25,233
Miles travelled—Utilecons ....	38,568	40,083	39,654
Miles travelled—Hospital Car Service ....	8,866	9,517	7,085

## 3. Home Help Service

Help was given in their own homes to 17 (10) maternity and 64 (64) other cases.

This service continues to grow though the demand is slackening due, to some extent, to the high scale of charges. This is a nationally accepted scale but if, as seems likely, it is so high as to deter people asking for help that they really need I think it should be reviewed.

## 4. After-Care Grants

A grant of free extra nourishment was made on the recommendation of the Chest Physician to 2 sufferers from tuberculosis.

## 5. Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory in Truro examined and reported on 27 samples of ice cream during the year.

## 6. Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting

	1953	1954	1955
General cases nursed ....	484	250	602
General nursing visits ....	3,887	6,737	6,375
Midwifery cases ....	149	164	169
Midwifery visits ....	4,407	3,401	4,240
Ante-natal visits ....	886	1,434	1,787
Health visits to children under 5 years	9,808	7,120	8,174
Visits to elderly people ....	1,125	3,438	3,923

Miss E. J. Jennings, Assistant County Nursing Officer, reports :—

Congratulations and thanks for over 21 years' continuous service in the district nursing service are due to Miss E. K. Sherford. During the year she was awarded the Queen's Nurses' Long Service Medal which was presented to her in London by H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester. No one has given herself more unsparingly to her work.

The Health Visitors are spending an increasingly large part of their time on visits to aged and infirm persons in their own homes. The problems connected with these, especially those living alone, are legion. Help is given by many agencies, the Home Help Service, the British Red Cross Society, the National Assistance Board and others all co-operate most amiably and willingly. But a great deal is left undone. A " Meals on Wheels " service especially in the Winter would be an inestimable boon. Another need is some sort of organisation which could well bring in the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides, which would take care of such minor but essential chores as chopping sticks, filling coal buckets, fetching groceries, etc., etc.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>		<i>Whooping Coughs</i>		<i>Paralytic Polio-myelitis</i>		<i>Measles</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
— 1 ....	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
1— 2 ....	1	—	2	—	—	—	5	5
3— 4 ....	1	2	3	4	—	—	6	10
5— 9 ....	2	4	5	8	1	1	19	22
10—14 ....	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
15—24 ....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25+ ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	4	—	12	14	1	2	31	3
Totals ....	10		6		3		70	



Age Group		Acute Pneumonia		Meningococcal Infection		Puerperal Pyrexia	Food Poisoning	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	F.	M.	F.
— 5	....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5—14	....	—	—	1	—	—	2	2
15—44	....	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
45—64	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
		1	—	1	1	1	3	3
Total	....	1		2		1	6	

The 3 cases of poliomyelitis were all comparatively mild. The first, which occurred in August, was a Penryn girl lodging in Falmouth. No connection with any other case could be traced but there had been a number of mild influenza-like illnesses among her family. This may have been due to non-paralytic poliomyelitis.

The second case occurred 50 days after the onset of the first with which no connection could be traced. The third case fell ill ten days after the second. There was a rather tenuous connection between the second and third cases in that they had mutual friends but none of these was at any time affected in any way.

Such sporadic cases must remain a mystery until simple tests such as the Schick test for diphtheria have been evolved. Perhaps long before that time protection by vaccination will have become the rule rather than the exception.

Five of the six notified cases of food poisoning occurred among a family travelling to Falmouth. The cause was undoubtedly some sandwiches made and kept overnight. The sixth case was a Falmouth child who ate some of the remaining sandwiches.

## Diphtheria

There were no cases of diphtheria in 1955. During the year 161 children under 5 and 46 older children were immunised, 153 received booster doses.

On the 31st December, 1955, there were 865 children between the ages of 1 year and 5 years in Falmouth and of these 542 or 62.7% had been immunised. This figure is still far too low. Unfortunately too many mothers require the stimulus of immediate danger before they will take the trouble

to get their children protected. It was fully expected that the offer of free protection against whooping cough in addition to diphtheria would attract mothers but in fact it has made little difference.

### Smallpox

There were no cases of this disease during 1955.

		<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1+</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15+</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number vaccinated	....	21	47	18	6	11	103
Number re-vaccinated		—	—	—	8	33	41

### Tuberculosis

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
— 5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—64	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
65+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	4	—	—	3	—	—	—
Totals	10	—	—	—	3	—	—	—

On the 31st December, 1955, there were 149 (155) cases of tuberculosis on the register of which 134 (136) were pulmonary.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Falmouth during 1955 but examinations were restricted to school children of whom 448 were examined. Among these no active case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis or other significant disease of the chest was discovered.

At the end of 1955 834 children had been vaccinated with B.C.G. Of this number 188 were contacts of known cases of tuberculosis and 646 were dealt with under the scheme for school leavers.

## BOROUGH OF FALMOUTH

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1955

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of  
Falmouth*

1st September, 1956.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Report which deals with environmental health and the public cleansing services for 1955.

The initial burden of taking over my appointment as your Senior Sanitary Inspector was facilitated by the work of my predecessor, Mr. Arthur Hey, who had instituted, among many achievements, an office routine which could well serve as a model.

My particular concern lies in the matter of Housing and it is evident that the war years and the post-war period of building restrictions have accelerated the decay of the older dwelling houses in the Borough. Over 100 of these will be dealt with in Slum Clearance Schemes but many more will remain which require urgent attention to save them from the same end and it is a matter of regret that the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, has failed to attract applications for Improvement Grants other than a small number from owner-occupiers.

Falmouth being a holiday resort, also has another responsibility in Food Hygiene. There are over 400 food premises which should be visited from time to time. To attempt this in the year is virtually an impossibility and resort must be made to publicity in the form of talks to food handlers and articles in the local press, which is more than willing to co-operate.

The introduction of new legislation, desirable in theory, does not dispose of the problems and responsibilities of the old and the work of the Health Department is still largely engaged in such fundamentals as the repair of roofs, drainage and refuse disposal.



In these matters, I take the opportunity of expressing my thanks to Mr. George Barnard for his loyal co-operation and to the other members of the staff for their conscientious assistance at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RONALD C. SWEET,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water Supply

I am indebted to Mr. D. H. McKerchar, Water Engineer, for the following report :—

The Falmouth Water Undertaking is Municipally owned.

The source of supply is from Gathering Grounds of gravel and peat sub-soil, into impounding and settling reservoirs. The water is subjected to (sand) pressure filtration. The filtered water is chlorinated to maintain the required standard of bacterial purity and is treated with lime to correct its corrosive tendency.

Chemical and Bacteriological analyses are done monthly of all water in supply, and the raw water quarterly.

During 1955 the average daily consumption within the statutory area of supply was 1,131,772 gallons.

The number of Trade and Domestic Supplies equals 5,341.

The water supply in the statutory area has been entirely satisfactory (a) in quality and (b) in quantity.

Two major projects which were commenced during the latter part of 1954, namely—the new million gallon capacity filtered water reservoir and the new gravity main to the Docks, have been virtually completed. The balancing reservoir of 300,000 gallons at Mylor has also been constructed and put into operation since the last report.”

### Sewerage

The major scheme for the new main sewer in the Swanvale Valley with tanks and outfall at Pennance Point has been completed since the last report, so that sewage disposal is now by sea outfalls at Middle Point, Gyllyngvase and Pennance Point.

Schemes are in course of preparation for the construction and equipping of new ejector stations in the Borough.

### Drainage

During the year, 90 new drains were tested, first by means of Water Test, then by Smoke Test, and all finally approved.

In addition, 397 yards of new 6 inch sewer and 111 yards of 6 inch surface water drains at Dracaena Avenue Housing Estate and Grove Hill Estate were tested and approved.

Of the 49 drains which have been repaired, there is no indication of the time spent in tracing the defects and course of these old drains and the value of proper plans cannot be stressed too greatly.

Forty of the 42 premises connected to the main sewer from cesspools were carried out at the expense of the Council, 39 being in the Dracaena Avenue Scheme.

### Closet Accommodation

With the exception of a very small number of Pail Closets and Privy Middens in outside areas, all are on the Water Carriage system and the majority are connected to the Council's sewer.

We have, however, 146 premises connected to 124 Cesspools; in addition there are five cesspools serving five caravan sites, all being emptied by an approved type of Cesspool Emptier.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE

<b>Dwelling Houses</b>	<i>Inspections</i>
Inspected for housing defects	266
Inspected after occurrence of Infectious Disease	19
Rooms disinfected and disinfested	196
Inspections of Water Closets	80
Inspections of Common Passages	35
Inspections of new houses	146
<b>Drainage</b>	
Sewerage Inspections	11
Visits to Works in Progress	430
Water Tests applied to drains	125
Smoke Tests applied to drains	110
New drains approved after test	90
New drains disapproved	—
Old drains tested	9
New Interceptors fixed	58
New gullies fixed	388

## Dairies

Dairies inspected	13
Milk Purveyor's Vehicles	46
Samples obtained for Methylene Blue Test	44

## Food Premises

Bakehouses inspected	18
Meat Shops, Stalls, etc.	28
Meat Allocation Depot	1
Cafes and Restaurants	77
Other Food Premises	98

## Miscellaneous Inspections and Activities

Cinemas and Music Halls	15
Public Conveniences	180
Drinking Fountains	15
Tips	135
Re Rat Destruction	1,763
Visits to Salvage Depot	47
Visits to Council Houses	7
Visits to Swanvale Sewerage Farm	11
Visits to Licensed Houses	8
Visits to Fish and Chip Shops	1
Visits to Caravan Sites	29
Visits to Farms	18
Visits to Piggeries	21
Visits to Pet Shops	1
Visits to Seamen's Lodging Houses	1
Visits to Aged and Infirm Persons	6
Inspection of Premises re Sale of Ice Cream	33
Inspection of Swanpool	9
Inspections re Shops Act	15
District Inspections	2
Inspections with Medical Officer of Health	2
Interviews with Owners, etc.	69
Interviews with Chairman	14
Interviews with Applicants for Council Houses	7
Interviews and Inspections re Overcrowding	13
Interviews re Collection of Refuse	17
Interviews with Farmers and Milk Purveyors	49
Interviews with Owners of Hotels	10
Interviews with Builders	28
Interviews with Architects	5
Interviews re Shops Acts	8

## SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

### Dwelling Houses

Roofs repaired	....	....	....	....	....	30
Eaves, Gutters and Fall Pipes repaired	....	....	....	....	....	24
Walls repaired	....	....	....	....	....	65
Windows repaired	....	....	....	....	....	16
Defective Wash Basins repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	—
Verminous Rooms disinfested	....	....	....	....	....	106
Floors relaid or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	12
Doors repaired	....	....	....	....	....	6
Defective Ceilings repaired	....	....	....	....	....	20
Defective Flues and Fireplaces repaired	....	....	....	....	....	8
Defective Cooking Stoves repaired	....	....	....	....	....	1

### Water Closets, etc.

Defective Water Closets repaired	....	....	....	....	....	8
Defective Hopper Pans replaced by Wash-downs	....	....	....	....	....	3
Additional Water Closets provided	....	....	....	....	....	3
Cesspools emptied	....	....	....	....	....	741
Pail closets abolished	....	....	....	....	....	2
New Cesspools built	....	....	....	....	....	8
Cesspools abolished	....	....	....	....	....	26

### Drainage

Soil pipes repaired	....	....	....	....	....	3
New sinks provided	....	....	....	....	....	2
Sinks repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	1
Drains repaired or reconstructed	....	....	....	....	....	10
Sink Waste Pipes repaired or disconnected	....	....	....	....	....	5
Choked Drains cleansed, repaired or relaid	....	....	....	....	....	19
Choked Gullies cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	7
Choked Interceptors cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	16
Sewers cleansed or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	7
Premises connected to main sewer	....	....	....	....	....	42
Manhole covers repaired	....	....	....	....	....	4
Siphon Traps removed	....	....	....	....	....	6

**Water Supply**

Water Services repaired	....	....	....	....	2
Houses or W.C.s provided with adequate water supply	....	....	....	....	4
Flush Cisterns repaired	....	....	....	....	9
Water Fountains repaired	....	....	....	....	2

**Miscellaneous**

Offensive Accumulations removed	....	....	....	....	12
Statutory Notices issued	....	....	....	....	8
Preliminary Notices given	....	....	....	....	213
Local Land Charges Supplementary Enquiries	....	....	....	....	222
Miscellaneous Inspections	....	....	....	....	870
Total Inspections made	....	....	....	....	4,596

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937****1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)**

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occu- piers prosec- uted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	27	47	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	49	86	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	3	6	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>



## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	2	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	6	6	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>

### Eradication of Vermin

One caravan was treated for bed bug infestation, 14 houses for fleas, 4 for beetles and 9 for flies.

Four Wasps' nests have been destroyed.

### Rodent Control

In connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, 160 cases were dealt with.

The baits used for prebaiting were 245 lbs. of Sausage Rusk and 166 lbs. Oatmeal and for poisoning, Arsenic, Zinc Phosphide, Antu and Warfarin were the chief agents.

Based on the actual "takes of Poison" it is estimated that 1,100 rats and 860 mice were killed. 239 dead rodents were picked up.

The work done during the year included the treatment of the Council's sewers, which resulted in an estimated kill of 75 included in the above total.

Co-operation has been maintained with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Control Division and the Cornwall Agricultural Committee, Pest Department.

One full-time Rodent Operator was employed and methods of treatment were strictly in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' recommendations and included poisoning and trapping.

No charges were made for treatment carried out at dwelling houses.

The following table gives the particulars of the work carried out during the year :—

<i>Com-plaints</i>	<i>Inspec-tions</i>	<i>Premises treated by poison</i>	<i>Pre-mises trapped</i>	<i>Pre-mises gassed</i>	<i>Man-holes baited</i>	<i>Pre-baits laid</i>	<i>Poison baits laid</i>
180	1,624	180	—	1	72	4,310	1,100

## Housing

During the year the Local Authority built 40 houses which brings the total of Council Houses to 1,190. Four estate shops were also built. 23 houses were built privately.

The Council have considered the question of Slum Clearance and decided to commence with the 1938 or fifth pre-war year's programme, which consists of small groups of houses, the details are as follows :—

- 16 Clearance Areas and
- 12 Individual houses comprising
- 110 Dwellings, occupied by
- 133 Families with a total of
- 427 Persons. Included in the above are :—
- 5 Workshops and
- 5 Shops.

1 house has been demolished as the result of informal action. 2 Basement rooms have been closed and 2 Undertakings accepted not to use the premises for human habitation.

As the result of informal action, repairs have been carried out to 122 houses and to 3 after formal action.

2 Undertakings given under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, have been cancelled, the houses having been made fit.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Milk Supply

There are fourteen farms in the Borough.

Distribution of milk was carried out by 25 purveyors, there being three distributors of Pasteurised Milk, 17 of T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk and 4 of T.T. Milk.

Forty-four samples of milk were taken for the Methylene Blue Test, the results being very satisfactory.

One Supplementary Licence to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested;" One Supplementary Licence to use the Special Designation "Pasteurised" were granted; also nine Dealers' Licences to use the Special Designation "T.T. (Pasteurised);" one for "Tuberculin Tested" and one for "Pasteurised" were granted during the year.

### Meat and Other Foods

144 visits were made to Food Shops in connection with the inspection of food, and the following meat and other foodstuffs were condemned :—

Brawn	....	....	....	....	....	17 lbs.
Sausages	....	....	....	....	....	67 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	....	....	....	....	....	134 lbs.
Canned Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	526 lbs.
Canned Meat	....	....	....	....	....	518 lbs.
Canned Milk	....	....	....	....	....	54 lbs.
Miscellaneous Canned Foods	....	....	....	....	....	333 lbs.
Dried Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	58 lbs.
Fish	....	....	....	....	....	210 lbs.
Miscellaneous Foods	....	....	....	....	....	467 lbs.
						<hr/>
						2,384 lbs.
						<hr/>

Unsound foods are disposed of by burying at the Council's Tip.

The number and types of food premises in the area are as follows :—

Butchers	....	....	....	....	....	17
Bakers and Confectioners	....	....	....	....	....	13
Cafes, Restaurants, Snack Bars, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	29
Canteens	....	....	....	....	....	2
Clubs	....	....	....	....	....	10
Dairies	....	....	....	....	....	2
Fish Dealers	....	....	....	....	....	4
Fish Fryers	....	....	....	....	....	10
Greengrocers	....	....	....	....	....	11



Grocers	....	....	....	....	....	37
Hotels, Boarding Houses, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	153
Hospitals and Nursing Homes	....	....	....	....	....	4
Hostels	....	....	....	....	....	1
Ice Cream	....	....	....	....	....	59
Licensed Premises	....	....	....	....	....	27
Meat Depot	....	....	....	....	....	1
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	7
School Canteens	....	....	....	....	....	3
Seamen's Lodging Houses	....	....	....	....	....	5
Vehicles	....	....	....	....	....	7

### Adulteration, Etc.

The County Council are responsible for the working of these Acts and Regulations and I am indebted to Mr. H. E. Rundle, Senior Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, for the following report :—

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

<i>Article</i>	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Sub-Standard</i>
Milk	54	53	1
Cornish Cream	4	4	—
Ice Cream	3	1	2
Brawn	1	1	—
Margarine	1	1	—
Butter	1	1	—
Lard	1	1	—
Pork Sausages	1	1	—
Flat Bread	1	1	—
Raisins	1	1	—
Demerrara Sugar	1	1	—
Table Jelly	1	1	—
Lemonade Powder	1	1	—
Marmalade	1	1	—
Blackcurrant Jam	1	1	—
Cherry Genoa Cake	1	1	—
Butter Toffees	1	1	—
Batternburgs	1	1	—
Milk Chocolate Wafers	1	1	—
Junior Swiss Rolls	1	1	—
Marshmallows	1	1	—
Marzipan	1	1	—
Ground Almonds	1	1	—
Puff Pastry	1	1	—
Dripping	1	1	—
Totals	83	80	3

During the year it was found necessary to institute proceedings in respect of the sample of milk that was found to be adulterated with added water and also in respect of one of the samples of ice cream, the other having been an informal one by way of a test purchase from the manufacturer. The latter trader had received a caution the previous year for selling ice cream seriously deficient in fat content and on this occasion he was fined £5 plus £4 18s. costs.

No other sample taken calls for adverse comment.

## Ice Cream

Section 14 Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1947 to 1952 are enforced in the Borough.

Fifty-nine premises are registered, three of which are for Manufacture and Sale, fifty-four for Sale and two Wholesale Storage Deports. With a view to securing uniformity in the interpretation of the legislation affecting the Ice Cream Trade, we are administering the provisional standard of grading based on the Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

During the year, samples of Ice Cream were obtained and submitted for examination the following table shows the results of samples obtained :—

No. taken					28		
No. certified as Provisional Grade 1					28	or	100%
No.	„	„	„	„	2	—	—
No.	„	„	„	„	3	—	—
No.	„	„	„	„	4	—	—

## Public Conveniences

180 visits have been made to the various conveniences and the revenue for the year ending 31st March, 1956, was £1,112 5s. 8d.

The Council have under consideration the erection of a new convenience at Swanpool Beach.

The Male and Female Conveniences at Market Strand have been demolished and a temporary Female Convenience substituted pending the construction of new Conveniences at Prince of Wales Pier.

## List of Public Conveniences in the Borough

Site	Accommodation		
	Females	Males	
Greenbank Gardens	1 W.C.	1 W.C.	2 Urinal Stalls
Market Strand ....	2 W.C's.	Nil	Nil
Webber Street ....	5 W.C's.	Nil	Nil
Moor .... ..	Nil	3 W.C's.	14 Urinal Stalls
Custom House Quay	4 W.C's.	2 W.C's.	5 Urinal Stalls
Castle Hill .... ..	Nil	1 W.C.	2 Urinal Stalls
Castle Drive .... ..	2 W.C's.	1 W.C.	2 Urinal Stalls
Cliff Road .... ..	2 W.C's.	1 W.C.	2 Urinal Stalls
Gyllyngvase Beach	10 W.C's.	4 W.C's.	10 Urinal Stalls
Cemetery .... ..	1 W.C.	1 W.C.	3 Urinal Stalls
Recreation Ground	4 W.C's.	2 W.C's.	6 Urinal Stalls
Kimberley Park ....	1 W.C.	1 W.C.	2 Urinal Stalls
Gyllyngdune Gar- dens .... ..	2 W.C's.	1 W.C.	3 Urinal Stalls

All these conveniences are cleansed daily, four have a Caretaker for 9 hours every week-day ; two are attended in the season only.

### Shops Act

The Council are responsible for the administration of the Shops Act, 1950 and during the year made an Order under Section 40 suspending the weekly half-holiday closing of shops engaged in the business of Fancy Goods and Souvenirs.

The inspection of shops and offices as regards their sanitary accommodation was continued during the year, and of the 15 inspections made, 8 were in connection with closing hours.

Two complaints were received and a number of contraventions dealt with.

### Young Persons Act

In one case an employer was found to be working a young person longer hours than permitted but when the provisions of the Act were explained to him, the working hours were rectified immediately.

### Camping Sites

There are six licensed sites with accommodation for 194 caravans ; of these, 115 are residential.

One of the sites is reserved exclusively for camping and no caravans are permitted.

Five of the sites have been provided with sanitary conveniences and washing facilities and all are provided with the Town's supply of water and dustbins.

## **Cinemas and Music Halls**

These places of Public Amusement were inspected during the year and gave no cause for complaint. The necessary reports were made to the Local Authority for the purposes of renewal of licences in respect of Cinemas.

## **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

One application was received for a Licence to keep a Pet Shop which was granted.

## **Public Cleansing Services**

### **Refuse Collection**

During the year, a twice-weekly collection of House Refuse was carried out and refuse from the shops in the main streets collected daily.

Three vehicles are employed on collection and the total mileage covered was 19,941 ; each vehicle is staffed by a driver and three ashbinmen.

### **Refuse Disposal**

All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at the Council's Tip at Trescobeas, where two men are employed ; a Bristol Angledozer and an Aveling Barford Dumper are used for disposal purposes.

The number of loads of Refuse disposed of is as follows :—

Karrier vehicle	.....	1,180
Commer „	.....	1,196
Seddon „	.....	1,287
Other Council vehicle	.....	169

This represents approximately 5,824 tons.

### **Salvage**

Compared with 1954 when 60 tons of Waste Paper was sold, only 43 tons were sold this year. This was due to the fact that towards the end of the year, the mills had a surplus over

actual consumption and the merchants would no longer purchase any Waste Paper.

### Cesspool Emptying

There are 124 Cesspools in the Borough which are emptied free of charge.

Two men are employed and a 750 gallon Bedford Cesspool Emptier is used.

### Costs of Cleansing Services

			£	s.	d.
(1)	Refuse Collection				
	Cost of Collection	....	8613	9	9
	Income—Sale of Salvage	....	311	11	11
(2)	Refuse Disposal				
	Cost of Tipping	....	1968	16	7
	Income—Hire of Bulldozer	....	19	5	0
(3)	Cesspool Emptying				
	Cost	....	1907	17	8
	Income—Hire of Vehicle	....	51	0	6





